



AT FEDERAL COURT, THE JURY HAS JUST RETURNED AND GIVEN ITS VERDICT OF GUILTY AGAINST BLACK MORGER, NOTORIOUS CRIMINAL. THE JUDGE IS PRONOUNCING THE SENTENCE



THE EXECUTION NIGHT MIGHT HAVE PASSED UNNOTICED, BUT FOR A STRANGE SCENE THAT TOOK PLACE IN AN OLD STONE COTTAGE ON A HILL OVERLOOKING THE JAIL. . . . BLACK MORGER'S WIFE AND FOUR CHILDREN ARE GATHERED BEFORE THE FIREPLACE. . . LET'S LISTEN IN.



SWEAR... THAT ON THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF OCTOBER, TWENTY FIVE YEARS FROM NOW, YOU WILL GATHER IN THIS HOUSE AND KILL THE FOUR PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR FATHER'S DEATH!



AS SHE FINISHES, THE BELL IN THE PRISON TOWER TOLLS, ANNOUNCING THAT THE EXECUTION IS COMPLETE. AT THAT MOMENT THE OLD WOMAN STAGGERS AND SINKS INTO A CHAIR.



SHE'S DEAD!

DIED, JUST AS THE BELL SOUNDED!



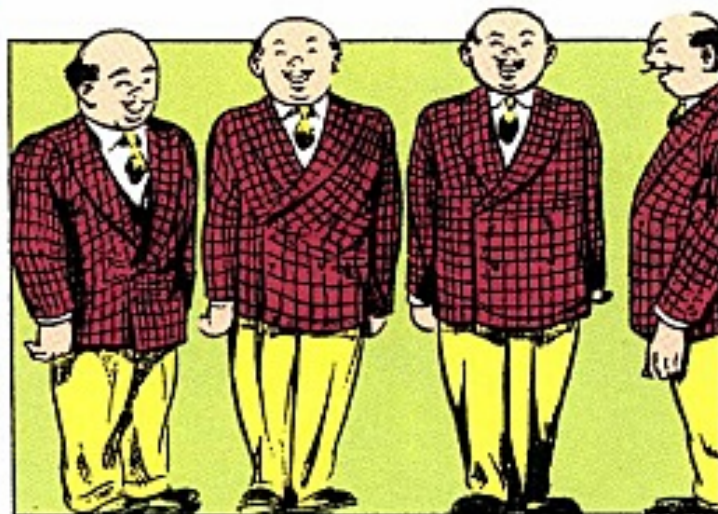
AND BY THE LIGHT OF THE FIRE IN THE HEARTH, EACH BROTHER SIGNS HIS NAME IN HIS OWN BLOOD TO AN OATH OF DEADLY VENGEANCE.



THE YEARS PASS... THE WORLD HAS LONG FORGOTTEN THE NAME OF BLACK MORGER. ON OCTOBER THIRTEENTH, TWENTY FIVE YEARS LATER, IN THE SAME HOUSE,



THE FOUR BROTHERS MEET. EACH LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE OTHER.



THEY GATHER BEFORE THE SAME FIRE-PLACE.



WE ARE PLEDGED TO AVENGE OUR FATHER'S DEATH. I SHALL READ THE NAMES OF OUR VICTIMS. I HAVE KEPT A RECORD OF THEM!



"MUTTSY" WATSON, THE THUG WHO SQUEALED ON HIM... ABNER CODGER, THE MAN WHO BROUGHT CHARGES AGAINST HIM... JUDGE WILSON... THE JUDGE DIED TWO YEARS AGO, SO WE'LL GET HIS DAUGHTER... AND EDESL WEEKS THE EXECUTIONER!



I HAVE THEIR ADDRESSES. WE'LL LEAVE AND RETURN WITH THEM! THEY WILL PAY WITH THEIR LIVES!



AS THE MEN LEAVE, EACH GOING IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION, A STRANGE THING OCCURS. THE HEAD OF THE OLD WOMAN SEEMS TO LOOM IN THE MIST ABOVE THE HOUSE...



IN THE CITY, AT THE HOME OF ABNER CODGER, SEVERAL HOURS LATER.

A GENTLEMAN TO SEE YOU, SIR!

HMPH. SEND HIM IN.

WELL?

ABNER CODGER, DO YOU REMEMBER BLACK MORGER? OF COURSE YOU DO... WELL I'M HIS SON, AND I'M GOING TO AVENGE HIS DEATH!

YOU CAN'T DO THIS!! I'LL CALL THE POLICE!

HA HA HA! DON'T BE SILLY! THEY CAN'T ARREST ME. I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING.. YET!

GOOD DAY! I'LL CALL FOR YOU TOMORROW. UNTIL THEN, PLEASANT DREAMS!

I'M DOOMED! THE POLICE CAN'T HELP! HE'LL GET ME SOMEHOW! WAIT! THERE IS ONE MAN WHO CAN SAVE ME!

NEXT DAY THE GREAT CRIME FIGHTER READS AN AD IN THE PAPER.

Classified Personal
The Spirit: if you want to make \$100,000. come to the apartment of Abner Codger at once.

HMM... OBVIOUSLY A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!

HOW DO YOU KNOW, MIST' SPIRIT?

BECAUSE, EBONY. ABNER CODGER IS A VERY THRIFTY MAN, AND IF HE IS READY TO GIVE AWAY \$100,000, IT MUST BE A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!

LATER...

ABNER CODGER

AT THAT MOMENT, THE DOOR OPENS.

THE SON OF BLACK MORGER?? I'LL TAKE THE CASE.. YOU CAN GIVE THAT \$100,000 TO CHARITY! MY ONLY INTEREST IS TO PREVENT CRIME!

OF COURSE! ANYTHING! ONLY HELP ME!

AH.. SO, MR. CODGER, YOU ARE PAYING THE **SPIRIT** \$100,000 TO SAVE YOUR LIFE FROM ME! HA HA!

HA HA HA! IT'S A GOOD GAME WE'RE PLAYING, YOU AND I.... AND THE PAWN IS POOR, FRIGHTENED MR. CODGER! HA HA HA!

PUT UP YOUR HANDS, SPIRIT! AS YOU SEE, THIS CANE IS IN REALITY, A KNIFE!

RECKLESSLY, THE **SPIRIT** STARTS FORWARD. ANOTHER MAN STEPS INTO THE ROOM.



AH, BROTHER, YOU HAVE RELIEVED A QUITE DIFFICULT SITUATION... COME, CODGER!



AND LEAVING THE **SPIRIT** UNCONSCIOUS ON THE FLOOR, THEY CARRY ABNER CODGER OUT



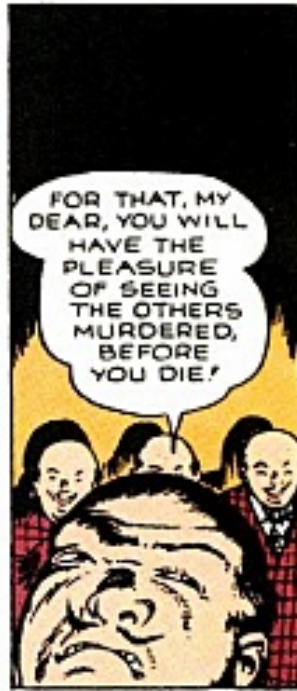
THAT NIGHT, A LIGHT GLOWS IN THE TINY STONE COTTAGE. THE BROTHERS PREPARE TO FULFILL THEIR PLEDGE.



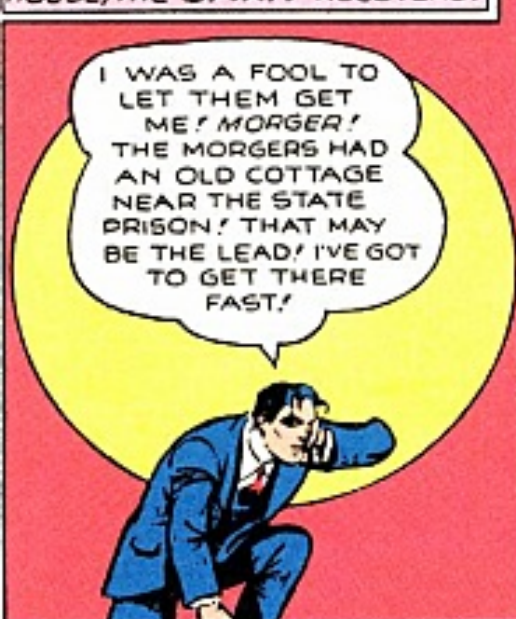
YOU'RE NOT SO BRAVE WITHOUT YOUR GANG. EH, MUTTSY?



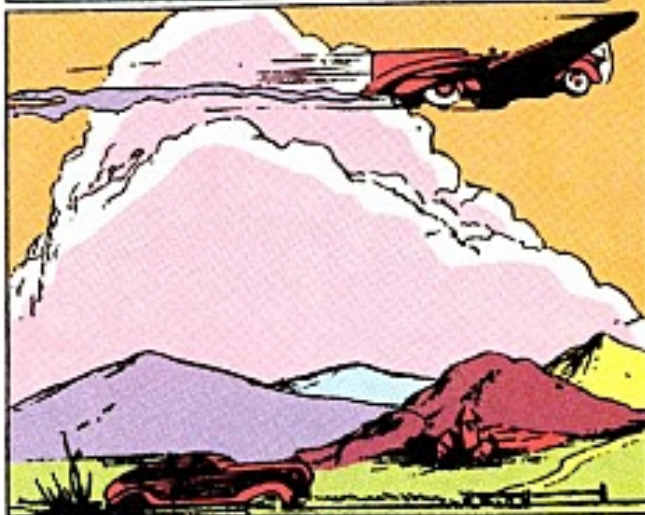
YOU BEAST!



MEANWHILE, BACK AT CODGER'S HOUSE, THE **SPIRIT** RECOVERS.



SOON THE **SPIRIT'S** AUTOPLANE IS ROARING THROUGH THE NIGHT, RACING AGAINST TIME. FAR BELOW ON THE HIGHWAY, A CAR SPEEDS IN THE SAME DIRECTION. IN IT ARE COMMISSIONER DOLAN AND INSPECTOR FINNEGAN.



WE'VE ONLY A POOR CLUE TO GO ON. EXECUTIONER WEEKS HAS BEEN MISSING TWENTY-FOUR HOURS! HE WAS REPORTED ON THIS ROAD WITH A BALD HEADED MAN!



AT THE MORGER HOUSE.



WITH A ROAR, THE **SPIRIT** ZOOMS ALOFT IN HIS AUTOPLANE.



CIRCLING OVER THE HOUSE, HE SUDDENLY PASSES A LEVER AND THE WINGS SLIDE IN...



MOVING OVER, HE GLIDES TO A DIVE.



